

we must stop treating the victim as the criminal and stop protecting the sexual predators. It is time for us to clean up the military justice system.

HELP FOR THE PHILIPPINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a mission of mercy, with a message of gratitude.

I am grateful today to members of the Foreign Affairs Committee; the chairperson, Mr. ROYCE; and the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL. I am grateful that they have filed a resolution to support the people of the Philippines.

My mission of mercy is to ask for help for the people of the Philippines. This resolution, H. Res. 404, speaks to some of what we may be able to do, and it also addresses our sympathy for the people of the Philippines.

□ 1045

It expresses our solidarity with the people of the Philippines. It expresses our continuing support for relief and reconstruction assistance for the people of the Philippines, and it goes on to commend the Filipino community in the United States of America for their efforts to organize and to help with the disaster relief.

The Philippines are our allies. The people of the Philippines have been there with us through many struggles. They are the victims of a force of nature, but they can survive this with our help.

I want people to understand that there is a special relationship between America and the people of the Philippines. They were there with us during World War II. They fought side-by-side with our troops. Many of them fought and died together. My hope is that this special bond, this special connectivity that started long before World War II but that continued through World War II, is something that will cause us to remember that these are our friends. They need our help.

They were also there during this war at the Battle of Bataan. More than 70,000 troops marched in the Battle of Bataan. They were marched to a camp where they were to be incarcerated. Many died along the way. Many of them were Americans. More than 10,000 Americans were a part of that Bataan Death March, as it is called.

We have more than 17,000 troops that are buried in the Philippines. These persons are the ones that took up the clarion call to answer the call to duty in a distant place. My hope is that we will remember that they sacrificed their lives and that the people of the Philippines mean a lot more to us than just a simple place on a map.

I would remind us that on August 30, 1951, 62 years ago, we signed a Mutual Defense Treaty with the people of the Philippines. This is not defense in the

traditional sense of defense, but it is defense in the sense that people are defenseless because they have been impacted by a force of nature unlike any other we may have seen on our planet.

This force of nature, according to USAID, has caused 9.7 million people to be affected. It has caused more than 23,000 people to have their homes damaged or destroyed. It has caused more than 600,000 people to be displaced. It has caused more than 700,000 people to find themselves being evacuated. The death toll is still climbing. It is at more than 2,000.

Today, I rise on a mission of mercy with a message of gratitude. The gratitude is to the United States of America and to this administration for sending in our troops. The Marines have landed, and more are on the way. We have an aircraft carrier, the USS *George Washington*, one of our finest. It will be there to provide support services and produce water.

\$20 million in aid is good, but the world has to come to the aid of the people of the Philippines, and we have to do more.

I know that these are times of great austerity. I understand that we have cuts. I also remember something that happened in my family when a person who lived in our community lost their job. We were poor. We were not born into plenty. We were born into poverty. While we were poor, we still understood that someone who had lost a job merited some support. I can remember my parents talking between themselves about how we could help this family, notwithstanding our sense of poverty. When I say we were poor, I was telling a Member just yesterday that the subsidized public housing would have been a step up in life for us. We called it the "projects," and we looked forward to moving to the projects. We never did, but we looked forward to it.

My point is this. Even when we were poor and when we had little, we still made room to help others who had less, and this is what a great country does, I believe.

A great country doesn't ask what will happen to us if we take up the cause of the people of the Philippines. A great country will ask what will happen to them if we do not take up the cause of the people of the Philippines.

So I beg today that we do all that we can to help and that we sign onto H. Res. 404, expressing our sympathy for the people of the Philippines.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. Let's pray for the people of the Philippines.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Larry Phillips, Midway Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, giver of eternal life, we thank You for this great Republic, a Nation conceived in religious liberty and the free exercise thereof. Today, as generations before us, we seek Your divine hand of providence to guide the affairs of our Nation and those who serve.

Guide our Representatives, we pray, on a path consistent with the original intent of our Constitution. Grant them the strength of character to defend life, liberty, and freedom for future generations. Lead them in the path of righteousness which will exalt this Nation.

As public servants, keep them from the sin of arrogance and self-centered pride by reminding them they are accountable to the people and to You for their decisions.

And I pray each Representative of this House may know that they are greatly loved by You.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I pray this in His name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.